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Illinois to see MAP grant changes

BRITTANY PETTIFORD Daily Egyptian

Gov. Pat Quinn is recommending a budget increase of \$50 million to MAP funding, which will extend awards to more than 20,000 students in Illinois.

Abdon Pallasch, assistant Illinois budget director, said at SIU Carbondale, approximately 4,500 students receive between \$16 million in awards.

“Under Gov. Quinn’s proposed budget, an additional \$2 million would allow another 600 SIU Carbondale students to get MAP grants,” Pallasch said.

Under the budget that was not recommended, the MAP grant will be reduced by more than \$50 million from its fiscal year 2014 level, a reduction of 13.5 percent. This will directly affect SIU students by taking away the MAP grant from 600 students.

Gov. Quinn recently hosted a MAP Matters Day Rally where students went to Springfield to support the increase for the MAP grant. Alex Soriano, a junior from Downers Grove studying business management was in attendance.

“The MAP grant is very important to my higher education,” he said. “As the eldest son of a single mother, I hope that the MAP grant will be protected. My sister will be applying for college next year and hopefully will be able to benefit from the MAP grant.”

David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, invited Tom Johnson, co-author of “Fixing Illinois: Politics & Policy in the Prairie State” and president emeritus of the Taxpayers’ Federation of Illinois, for Pizza and Politics at 5 p.m., Monday at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

His book is a plan for effective and honest government, which debates restoring the faith of Illinois’ citizens in its institutions and reviving a sense of citizenship and state pride.

Illinois is known for its reputation as a high-tax state. For example, the state’s personal income tax rate was increased by 67 percent and corporate income tax rates were increased by 46 percent in 2011.

Yepsen said because of Illinois’ problems, Johnson collaborated with a colleague to write the book about changing the state.

“I think this book will be a great bit of information for students to benefit from,” he said. “He’s a former state revenue director and a tax expert. With the debate about whether or not to increase income taxes, I’m pretty sure he’d be the right guy to talk to right now.”

Yepsen said students would directly be affected on campus because an income tax increase means bigger classes, fewer staff, higher tuition and higher school fees.

Please see POLITICS • 2



JENNIFER GONZALEZ • DAILY EGYPTIAN

Julie Baldwin, of Murphysboro, reacts Monday to being told the total number of dogs in her vehicle tops 15. Baldwin and her fiancé rescue animals and own a no-kill shelter. The couple’s love for animals is one of the many factors that brought them together.

Don’t call it puppy love

LUKE NOZICKA Daily Egyptian

As the kids climb into bed and Fall Out Boy’s “Save Rock and Roll” plays in the background, Alex Socorro and Julie Baldwin prepare for their wedding.

The two are to be wed June 8, or as Julie would say, four weeks and six days, not that she’s counting. The couple said they could not be more excited for 75 of their closest friends and family to join them at the outdoor, intimate Sunday ceremony.

While the two come from different backgrounds, Alex said they always know what the other is going to say and pick up one another’s slack.

“You lose things; I find them,” he said, as Julie followed and said, “No, no, no. You forget things; I

remember them.” Setting down one of the many Steampunk-themed corsages she has been working on all day, Julie closes a window to reduce the sound of whining puppies from their no-kill shelter next door.

Their more than 25-acre property within the Shawnee National Forest in Murphysboro consists of a brown, one-story home, nearly three dozen dogs, eight cats, three horses, multiple chickens, several fish and two children.

Julie’s daughter Madyson Cato, 9, and Alex’s daughter Ava Hecht, 4, have been playing in the woods together ever since the couple met at a drag-show benefit for AIDS in December 2012. Julie’s first daughter Taytum Pearce, 14, lives with her father in St. Louis and visits occasionally.

Julie was raised as a Southern Baptist in Harrisburg while Alex was raised Jewish in the suburbs of Chicago. Alex, who is transitioning his sex from female to male, said he loves southern Illinois because the people are more welcoming than back home.

“You can’t talk to people in Chicago like you talk to people down here,” he said. “You will lose your job – or your life.”

Every Thursday night Julie gives Alex, who started hormone-replacement therapy 13 months ago, another testosterone injection. Julie has given him his weekly shot since day one.

Alex said he began cross-dressing a year and a half before choosing to transition.

For the rest of the story see page 6

Dunn takes office

SARAH NIEBRUGGE Daily Egyptian

The SIU marching band announced Randy Dunn’s entrance as the media, administration and students welcomed him with loud applause and eager ears Thursday afternoon in the student services building.

Chancellor Rita Cheng introduced Dunn by welcoming him back to the university. Dunn previously worked at SIU as a professor in the college of education and human services beginning in 1995 and became department chair in 2000, before leaving to work with Rod Blagojevich.

“For some of you who may have followed the press in my leaving of (Youngstown State University) after eight months to come back home, it was fairly intense,” Dunn said. “But when you talk to individuals, and they understand what you’re doing and why you’re doing it, it’s very hard to begrudge anyone returning home for their dream job.”

Dunn said he is excited to be back in Carbondale and wants to focus on making student’s voices heard.

“I really do hope that I’m reflective of a solid leadership that’s characterized by a number of words: inclusive, collaborative, democratic,” he said. “One that tries to pull people in to get many voices to guide decision making.”

The administration can better address campus issues by working together, Dunn said. He and the SIU Board of Trustees should be informed about important matters regarding each campus, he said.

Dunn said he wants to keep the university system operating efficiently and effectively.

“I use this old line, ‘the new normal is here’ and that’s in the little tripe cause we hear it everywhere but you know the great old days aren’t coming back in public higher education,” he said. “We are going to have to figure out how to be more nimble, responsive, maneuver better, set clear priorities and make sure we’re streamlined in our operations.”

Please see DUNN • 2



SARAH GARDNER • DAILY EGYPTIAN

President Randy Dunn addresses media, faculty and students Thursday in the Student Services Building.

Physics honor society inducts five SIU students

KIA SMITH
Daily Egyptian

Toasts to excellence filled Neckers Hall Friday as students received pins bonding them for life with other physicists.

Five students were inducted into the Sigma Pi Sigma physics national honor society. The induction marks the first time since 1996 SIU students have joined the organization. According to its national website, the society was founded in 1921 and is part of the Association of College Honor Societies.

The five physics students inducted were senior Mitch Connolly, graduate student Jacob Huffstutler, junior Aaron Zolotor, junior Julianna Richie and graduate student Kaili Ranta.

Eric Chitambar, assistant professor of physics, said the department's decreasing enrollment could be a factor in why no students have been inducted in the past 17 years.

"I don't know the full history," he said. "The former faculty adviser did retire, but I doubt funding had anything to do with it since being a member only costs \$54 per person."

Induction into the society comes with lifelong benefits, Chitambar said.

"Members receive quarterly emails about job opportunities or graduate school programs," he said. "As a whole, Sigma Pi Sigma engages in many education-outreach programs across the countries, which members can join. Aside from that, membership in this society is a prestigious accolade that can be placed on one's [curriculum vitae]."

Zolotor, a junior from Skokie, said he is ecstatic about his induction.

"I feel like I have really accomplished something," he said.

"It makes me want to succeed at higher levels and I couldn't help but feel relaxed at the pinning ceremony."

Potential inductees must be in the top one-third of their graduating class and must complete at least three semesters of physics coursework. They must also gain approval of every professor they've taken classes with in order to qualify for membership.

"As members, we have to maintain high academic scholarship, give back to the community and maintain the honor of the society," Zolotor said.

The society's mission statement is divided into four dimensions: honor,

encouragement, service and fellowship.

"What is essentially valuable is the networking now available," Zolotor said. "Many successful physicists have been inducted over the years and belonging to the same organization as they do gives me greater access that I may not have otherwise had."

For more information on Sigma Pi Sigma, please visit www.sigmapi.org.

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DUNN
CONTINUED FROM 1

The position as president is not to dictate or micromanage over the campuses, but rather to add value and build on the goals for both campuses, Dunn said. He said setting priorities as a system is vital.

"Research, technology is all part of that," Dunn said. "But I'm not just talking about innovation in those fields, I'm talking social innovation, entrepreneurship, economic development, innovative thinking across all these domains that we can have an impact on as a university system."

Dunn said improving the university in all aspects is significant because it serves as a model for other state universities.

"I have a firm belief that the best state universities in the country are those that are aligned, linked with their regions intricately, intimately and integrally," he said. "And I'll tell you what, there's no place that holds that more so than SIU for the footprint it serves."

Dunn said he is pleased to finally start as president after his and Rhonda's move over Easter weekend.

"(Wednesday) was a zoo. We had a carpenter, a painter, an electrician and a plumber all bumping into one another in the house," he said. "I was quite glad to get to work today."

POLITICS
CONTINUED FROM 1

Yepsen said he hopes many students will come ready with questions about Illinois tax system.

"Students are busy at this time of their lives, they have school, they have work. If you don't know about taxes, I think they're going to learn pretty soon," he said. "The best anyone can hope for is that the income tax increase doesn't take place."

Johnson said his book could be used as a primer for those who are interested in changing the state and improving the public's trust in our state government.

"A recent Gallup poll has suggested the Illinois public has one of the lowest levels of confidence in their government than any state in the nation," he said. "We are not wedded with our solutions, but we hope they generate discussion, ideas for

improvement and most importantly identify champions to the reform efforts we suggest."

Johnson will talk to students about what actions to take and how they are directly affected by the taxes in Illinois as a part of his lecture. He said college students are probably more impacted by the state's other taxes than the personal income tax.

Johnson said for example, students pay more in sales tax than they do in income tax. Illinois has a relatively narrow sales tax base leading to high sales taxes, he said.

"The Tax Payers' Federation of Illinois believe in broad base low rate taxes," Johnson said. "Students probably spend more of their consumption dollars on goods versus services and therefore the high tax rates hits more of their consumption than does the consumer that spends more of their consumption dollar on services."

The main purpose of Johnson's lecture is to inform students about the tax systems in Illinois and how they are affected.

"I think college students should make an effort to not only understand our tax structure but how it compares to tax structures in other states," Johnson said. "Also, how do we compare and what do we need to do to be more competitive with other states in our overall tax burden?"

Johnson said that he wants those who have entered political life to take leadership in addressing more if these issues.

"I believe a broader tax base for both the income and the sales tax with lower rates would produce a fairer tax system than we currently have, and one that would be more responsive to economic growth," he said.

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OPINION POLL

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Question: According to the February 27 opinion poll regarding what keeps students from attending athletic events, 42 percent replied they are unaware of when the games take place. What would be the best method to convey to the student body the times and dates of these events?

A - Social media blasts, via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram

B - Mass email reminders to SIU email accounts

C - Public reminders, i.e. sidewalk chalk or flyers

D - A printed calendar of games on the back of students IDs

Visit www.dailyegyptian.com to vote

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DAILY EGYPTIAN

OPINION POLL RESULTS

Social Media blasts, via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram

65%

A printed calendar of games on the back of student's IDs

6%

Mass email reminders to SIU email accounts

13%

Public reminders, i.e. sidewalk chalk or flyers

16%

*Results recorded on 05/2/2014 at 4:00PM

*THIS IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC POLL.

IT REFLECTS ONLY THE OPINIONS OF THOSE INTERNET USERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE.

THE RESULTS CANNOT BE ASSUMED TO REPRESENT THE OPINIONS OF INTERNET USERS IN GENERAL NOR THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE.

Student shows passion through Martin's Picasso

JAKE SAUNDERS
Daily Egyptian

The lights rise as Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso exchange ideas over drinks in a bar in Paris; the year is 1904.

This scene can only be found in "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," a comedy written by actor Steve Martin. Director Nich Radcliffe, a first-year master of fine arts student from Vinton, Iowa, studying directing, presented the drama for his thesis project Friday through Saturday.

"Martin describes [the play] as a lighthearted examination of the creative mind and those personalities and interactions," he said.

Radcliffe said the play is his own deconstruction of the original 67-page script, which is condensed into 29 pages.

"The focus of the story as I'm telling it is very specifically of Picasso's journey from his blue period to his rose period, which was the leaping-off point for cubism," Radcliffe said.

Though there has been humor in every play he has directed, Radcliffe has never produced an out-and-out

comedy, he said.

"I find the topic of artistic inspiration to be fascinating," Radcliffe said. "When you hit the extra gear that really creative people have, it's sort of inexplicable."

Radcliffe said the story traces back to find what caused inspiration in a particular moment.

"You're the same person, really. Or are you?" Radcliffe said. "What is it that caused that change in you forever that makes that creative evolution possible?"

Radcliffe cited his own inspiration for interpreting the play through an essay written by Friedrich Nietzsche, called "The Birth of Tragedy." This essay focuses on two Greek gods: Dionysus, who symbolizes wine and fertility, and Apollo, who symbolizes prophecy, truth and healing.

"He talks about man being defined by our own individual persona, what we decide we are," he said. "But that is even chosen based on Apollonian construct. So what does it take to break that and evolve as man, and when I say man, I mean person, and have creative brilliance like Picasso or scientific creative brilliance like Einstein."

The play is rooted in creative

realization and focuses on Picasso and Einstein as they experience inspiration differently from one another and their surroundings.

"We talk about intoxicants and it

"find the topic of artistic inspiration to be fascinating. When you hit the extra gear that really creative people have, it's sort of inexplicable."

— Nich Radcliffe
Director

being the intoxicants that lead you into this veiled world where things are a little cloudy, but somehow more clear," he said.

Radcliffe said intoxicants could be thought of as the artist's muse. For some, the muse is alcohol, as it is in the play, but could be everything from music to women.

"That is the theory that I have based the production on," he said. "The theory that Nietzsche writes

about with Dionysus and Apollo and breaking constructs through the use of intoxicants, or muses, is what guided me through my cutting down to the story we tell."

The goal of directing is to put theories into productions and make them concrete for the audience, Radcliffe said.

He said he does not expect anyone to see the theory behind the play. However, he hopes the audience will understand the ways in which a muse can change one's life and how that can lead to great creative and personal discovery and evolution.

"See, we use the theory to tell the story," Radcliffe said.

The characters present the relationship of similarities between the opposite forms of art and science and the impact of a muse on each of them, especially with Picasso.

"I hesitate to use the term muse because there's a connotative meaning to it and people just attach it to sex or some sort of objective thing," he said. "But it's not that simple. When you encounter a muse, it is a holistic impact."

Radcliffe said the influence is how a muse views the artist and vice versa.

"It's the way they talk to you, the way they look at you, the way they support your ideas and the way they challenge your ideas," Radcliffe said. "Like Picasso says, I can only do this now because of all the things I have felt before."

The actor portraying Einstein, Richie Lisenby, a first-year graduate student from Dothan, Ala., studying opera musical theater, said the experience was tedious, yet encouraging as an actor.

"A lot of the work was done in trying to get us not to so much act, but just be these characters," Lisenby said. "[Radcliffe] told us every day to just get out of our heads."

Wes Ladd, a senior from Mayfield, Ky., studying philosophy, attended the performance and said it was an awesome show with great dialogue and acting.

"In contrasting Einstein, who was very reasoned, and Picasso, who was all passion, it was really cool for them to play off each other in the way that they did," Ladd said.

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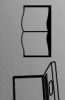
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‘Spider-Man’ not ‘Amazing,’ but Sony shows improvement

KARSTEN BURGSTAHLER
Daily Egyptian

When Sony Pictures announced it would reboot the “Spider-Man” franchise just a few years after “Spider-Man 3,” the move reeked of desperation.

And desperate it was. Sony wanted to hold on to the rights lest they revert to Marvel.

Thus the muddled, messy “The Amazing Spider-Man” was born. Its first sequel, the aptly titled “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” (Rated PG-13; 142 Min.) is still quite flawed but doesn’t have the same rip-off feel the first movie had.

The movie focuses on franchise-building this time as Peter Parker/Spider-Man (Andrew Garfield) tries to keep his distance from Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) after he promised her father he’d leave her out of his superhero business. That gets tricky as he deals with a cavalcade of new villains including the poorly-motivated Electro (Jamie Foxx) and the not-so-menacing Green Goblin, a persona taken on by Harry Osborn (Dane DeHaan) instead of his father Norman, who, in the comics canon, becomes the Goblin first.

“Spider 2” takes some pretty big liberties with the source material in pursuit of an “Avengers”-style franchise. Because the studio has already announced four more movies in the franchise, director Marc Webb sets up as many subplots as possible before he runs as fast as he can from this bubble waiting to burst.

Sometimes the movie works, other times it doesn’t, representative of the film’s flippant emotional issues and not a good sign of confidence for a wannabe franchise.

The film’s first scene sets this tone. The producers have the gall to slap Sony product placement all over a sequence where a couple of important characters meet their ends.

These tonal inconsistencies were a

hallmark of the reboot, and coming from rom-coms like “500 Days of Summer,” Webb hasn’t mastered how to move from romance to action. A sequence of Gwen and Peter making up is intercut with Jamie Foxx discovering his powers as Electro. Suffice to say “Spider 2” won’t be in the running for Best Editing next year.

But because Webb isn’t burdened with a hero origin story, the movie makes a notable departure from Sam Raimi’s trilogy, and that’s why the new mythology works. Even when the backstory gets sketchy — which, with so many villains and scientific explanations meant to decipher critical plot points, it inevitably does — there’s more of an effort to serialize the proceedings than there was in Raimi’s films. In a culture where Disney’s Marvel movies are all connected, Sony has to do something to keep Spider-Man relevant.

So rather than reheating leftovers and calling them dinner, Sony allows the audience to have a few genuine revelations. Garfield and Stone in particular don’t feel as restricted this time around, allowing their relationship and chemistry to flourish.

The first film’s muddy visuals and

brooding “Dark Knight” aspirations have mostly vacated the premises — it’s a lighter spin, at least until the overdramatic climax and awkward run-on ending. One good thing about the operatic final half-hour, though: DeHaan’s performance between going nuts and becoming the Green Goblin. DeHaan has some fun with the character before he’s shoehorned into a battle, reminiscent of how Raimi underused Venom in “Spider-Man 3.”

Serious franchise fans may not take kindly to Webb’s changes, but they’re interesting to say the least. There’s a spark of inspiration that wasn’t present in the first film, a desire to be a fun superhero movie rather than a hip superhero movie.

When “Spider 2” takes itself a bit less seriously, it works as summer bombast. But its constant tug to be more than just a movie, to carry the burden of a series scheduled all the way through 2018, holds it back in all the wrong places.

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STAFF COLUMN

Student media still necessary

KAYLI PLOTNER
Daily Egyptian

Campus towns around the country are known for their diverse and active student populations that bring various cultures together. For state schools especially — operating on the taxpayer’s dime — the university becomes the heart of the community, providing jobs, education and pride for the region. With that array of culture, comes news. As students, we sometimes aren’t taken seriously in the eyes of our superiors. However, as student journalists, it is our mission to shatter this preconception and prove the ability to report the news is based on accuracy and experience, not age. In an April 13 article in the New York Times, Jennifer Conlin declared student newspapers have become the most valuable source of news in college communities. According to the article, there are roughly 1,800 American college and university newspapers, while there are only 1,380 daily newspapers left in circulation in the United States. The article also cites student newspapers’ ability to break news with investigative journalism. When the University of Michigan football team recently became involved in controversy, it was the student newspaper that broke the story,

not the local paper. There is something to be said for students’ ability to uncover information on a college campus. A breaking news story came out of SIU’s DAILY EGYPTIAN this year. The search for the new university president had suddenly come to a screeching halt, and rumors were flying about who it was going to be. Nearly eight hours after digging up many aspects of Randy Dunn’s life, the DE published the story online on a Saturday night. The next Monday, the Board of Trustees announced Dunn as SIU’s next system president. I have many memories as editor-in-chief of the DE, but that day will stand out forever. It wasn’t the local paper that broke the story. It wasn’t the university’s PR firm. It was the students who got the information, backed it up with facts and shared it with the world. Despite administrative attempts at a top-down, tight-lipped communication model, we as student journalists have direct access to sources that local reporters don’t: our fellow students. The DAILY EGYPTIAN also came under fire for a sports story and opinion piece that followed. The stories criticized basketball coach Barry Hinson for removing two players from the team by “advising them to transfer” in order to free up

scholarship space to bring on his hand-picked freshmen. What all those angry commenters on the website didn’t know is that the entire DE editorial board published an editorial months earlier backing coach Hinson after his nationally publicized rant at Murray State. We believed what the university wanted us to believe, that he was what SIU needed, and what we stood for. But what people see outside of the locker room isn’t always how things work on the inside. Student athletes are students first, and athletes second. Despite the thousands of dollars that their hard work and dedication bring to the university, their coaches and staff members don’t want them to have a voice, unless it is pre-approved. I got plenty of angry calls and emails that day, calling for the firing of that reporter for bringing the university into a bad light. However, the truth of the matter is, I would have fired him had he not written it. We are not in the business to keep the university in a good light. We’re in the business of telling the truth. Unfortunately for Hinson, or any other hotheaded university public figure, the DE answers to one principle, and one principle only: the First Amendment. In writing the basketball story, the reporter talked to the players,

who had a right to tell their story. They had a right to tell the world that they didn’t initially want to leave the team. One player even asked Hinson to his face, What do I have to do to stay on the team? Tell me what I need to work on. But the decision already had been made, and his “family” of a team was being picked apart, piece by piece. Yes, transfers happen all the time in college basketball. But the frequency of a bad practice doesn’t make it a good one. The students had something to say, and the student newspaper was the only place willing to listen. Whether it’s sports, or politics, or environmental issues, a college campus thrives because of its students, and those students have an invaluable voice. While journalism is an evolving field, it is far from dead. Student journalism is essential to the success of a college campus. Students are the core of a university; without us, the faculty, administration, coaches and buildings themselves would be entirely useless. The DAILY EGYPTIAN has been the voice of the SIU student body for nearly 100 years, and it needs to stay that way.

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About Us

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 15,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Thursday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions run on Wednesdays. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

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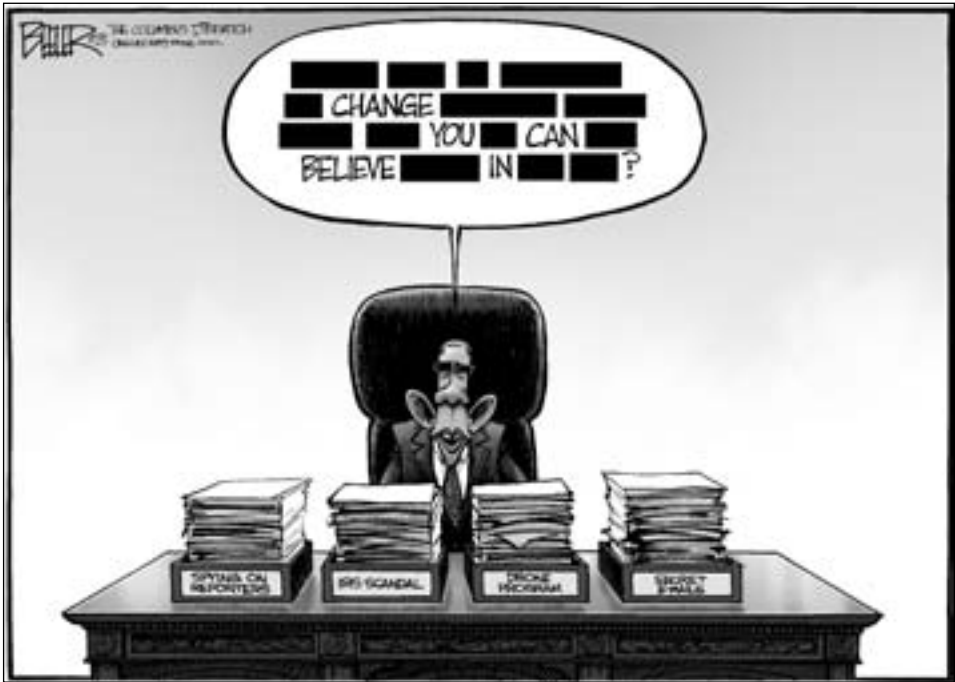
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



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Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author’s contact information, preferably via email. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and columns to 500 words. Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Others include hometown. Submissions should be sent to opinion@dailyegyptian.com.

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Julie performs as her stage presence Faim Lee Jewls, Feb. 15, during the “Zombies: Eat Your Heart Out” drag show at the Student Center.



The audience waves tips at the foot of the stage during Faim Lee Jewls’ performance.



Alex performs as his stage presence Riley James, Feb. 15, during the “Zombies: Eat Your Heart Out” drag show at the Student Center.



Julie Baldwin and Alex Socorro, of Murphysboro, pick up a litter of puppies from the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri since 2009, while Julie began when they met in December 2012. The two hold

DON'T PUPPY

Photography by J
Story by Lu

CONTINUED FROM 1

Alex has not yet received a new driver's license since his legal name change officially went through April 21. His birth name, Amy, is still displayed on his license, along with an image of him years ago with long, blonde hair.

"Being carded in bars where you don't know anybody—that's really interesting," he said. "That's probably the most discomfort I've ever felt."

Alex said everyone has an awkward stage while transitioning, and his was figuring out which bathroom to use.

"I didn't let any facial hair grow until it was noticeable, so I just kept it shaved and just stuck to using the ladies room," he said. "Now it's a little more awkward so I don't do that."

Some hormone replacement treatments can come with negative side effects, and some clinics do not offer heavy counseling. Alex said he knows people whose transition experiences have not been as smooth as his.

"I know a lot of people that are going through it who have some emotional side effects from it, so I always preach counseling," he said.

"They go back and forth a lot like, 'Do I want to keep doing this? Do I want to stop?' You have to talk about it."

Julie said Alex is the third person she has known to transition and has also had a friend with emotional difficulties through the process.

"He would go through moments of rage and [was] totally upset and crying," she said. "You know, 'I'm such a freak and people look at me funny all the time,' and that wasn't necessarily the case, but that's just how he felt."

Alex said transitioning is not something that happens overnight, although Julie remembers the moment she realized Alex's voice had drastically changed.

"Our work phone has his previous voice on it before any hormone therapy, and I don't remember why I called that phone but I got the voicemail," she said. "I was like, 'Whose voice is that? Who recorded this for you?' and he's like, 'That's me,' and I was like, 'Oh my god. This is what you sounded like when I met you:'"

Alex said day to day, he never noticed his voice change, although his now-lower voice may help while shushing their many adopted, barking puppies.

Often working hand-in-hand with the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri in Cape Girardeau, Mo., the couple adopts roughly 30 animals a month, almost an animal for each day of the year, to be sold through their no-kill shelter.

As the two drove roughly 45 minutes to the Humane Society, they shared a kiss at 12:34 p.m., like they do every day, twice a day.

A guard dog greeted them when they pulled into the driveway, before the animals were fed, bathed and photographed at the couple's shelter, just several feet from their home. Their animals are displayed for adoption on their website, www.dogsfrommars.net.

Every other weekend, the two drive to Buffalo Grove to hold events in a hope to find homes for the animals.

The two charge a \$300 adoption fee for dogs and \$35 for cats, along with any expenses from additional care such as medical, grooming and transportation. Adoptees receive a microchip and one month of pet insurance.

Julie said she and Alex, who started the shelter in 2009, use adoption fees to pay their utility bills.

"Normal people have a nice water bill that's not too bad for a family



uman Society of Southeast Missouri in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Alex has been rescuing events in Buffalo Grove where they attempt to place the animals in permanent homes.

CALL IT LOVE

Jennifer Gonzalez
Mike Nozicka

of four, which is what we are, but then you have to consider the horses, our dogs, shelter dogs, the cats,” she said. “I couldn’t even tell you how many gallons of water we use a month.”

Alex said while the job is not a glamorous one, it is rewarding and allows him and Julie to spend every waking moment together. He said because they’re always together, they know each other like the back of their hands, literally.

Julie has a keyhole tattoo on her wrist with roman numerals of the day Alex asked her to marry him. Alex, who has the key tattooed on his arm, has been tattooing since 2004 and has done all of his own body art, along with three of Julie’s tattoos.

Alex said their key and keyhole tattoos resemble their relationship. “You know that honeymoon period that everybody goes through and it’s exciting, like, ‘Oh my god I can’t wait to see that person,’ sitting, waiting for them to get off work, hoping they’ll call you,” he said. “Yeah, that just never ended.”

On weekends off from rescuing animals, Alex and Julie perform drag shows as Riley James and Faim Lee Jewels.

As locals, regulars and performers, the two often go to Two 13, also

known as Club Traz, in Carbondale. Their next show is Friday. The two also travel to St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, Mo. and Paducah, Ky., to perform.

Julie, who has been in and out of drag for nine years, said she enjoys performing because it is natural. She took the stage for the first time in Carbondale.

“I had a friend of mine [who] said, ‘Oh I’m getting ready to do a drag show and the song I want to do has a male part and I don’t know anybody that does drag king,’ and I jokingly said, ‘Oh, you know I’ll do it,’” she said. “Of course I toyed with the idea for a couple days and I called him back and was like, ‘You know what? I will. This could be fun.’”

Bringing the first drag show to Harrisburg, Julie said her favorite part about putting on shows is seeing a community of good people converge.

“I think it really helped opened people’s eyes to the gay community,” she said. “It wasn’t just entertainment; it was entertainment, bringing friends together, getting people together who didn’t feel like they belonged at the locals bars because ‘Oh well, I’m gay, and I don’t



Alex tattoos Jeremy Strabala, of Streator at his and Julie’s home in Murphysboro. Alex has been tattooing for 10 years and completed artwork on Julie and himself.



Ava Hecht laughs as Julie brushes her hair before bedtime. Ava is Alex’s daughter and lives with the couple, as well as Julie’s daughter, Madyson Cato.



Alex gives Ava a hug before sending her off to bed. Alex said Ava’s birth father is rarely involved in her life. “It took all my begging and pleading with him to take her,” Alex said. “Half the time I find out he just hired a babysitter anyway.”

belong here.”

Alex said getting ready for shows can take multiple hours, and drag kings usually don’t get the acknowledgement they deserve.

“I’m not sure why but a lot of people when a drag queen is in makeup and wearing a wig, that they call that person her or she,” he said. “However, when a female is in drag and dresses in male wearing applied facial hair and dress the part, they still say she.”

While there are people out there with varied marital opinions, Julie said she hopes they will expand their views.

“When I was a kid, I could remember being with my grandmother or something and other people would say things like, ‘Don’t talk to that person; they’re gay,’” she said. “Hopefully someday a lot more people will accept it than shun it.”

Julie said it was difficult when previous relationships did not accept “the drag life,” and being engaged to another performer is like killing two birds with one stone.

She said her family, Alex’s adopted family and his birth parents all greatly support their marriage and are eager to see Alex in his top hat and tails at the wedding.

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PG.10



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Sport Club Executive Board

honors clubs, participants

TYLER DAVIS
Daily Egyptian

With just \$50,000 to fund more than 40 sport clubs, it can be difficult to find the money to plan club events.

Shane Bennett, the assistant director of sport clubs and intramurals, said the amount pales in comparison to the money other universities give to its sport clubs. Additionally, those universities usually offer fewer options than SIU.

The clubs that best used the scarce funds were recognized at a meeting in the Recreation Center Thursday. The Sport Club Executive Board announced a slew of awards, including Club of the Year, Officer of the Year, Event of the Year and Most Improved Club.

Bennett said one of the most competitive awards was the Most Improved Club. The kendo club received the honor and Bennett said one of the reasons was because the club wisely used its resources.

“Our martial arts programs have a tremendous resource in Johnathan Flowers,” Bennett said. “He has great knowledge of all the martial arts and can help them better understand the art and advertise the club.”

Flowers is a member of the Sports Club Executive Board and is well versed in the martial arts. He is also president of the shinkendo and Kali-escrima clubs on campus.

Bennett said the club's participation during International Culture Week was a factor in them winning the award. The "art" of the club was on full display during the International Culture Show, held Feb. 14. It also served as a good way to recruit more members, Bennett said.

Peter Schorsch, a sophomore from Elk Grove Village studying information systems technology, is the treasurer of the club and said the club's improvement came from

internal changes.

"We elected new officers and we tried communicating more effectively," Schorsch said. "Then there was communication between our members and it helped get practice times and organize plans for the club."

Bennett said the club had more internal issues it had to deal with besides organizing meetings. Part of the officer overhaul occurred because of some tension between club members. With two leaders with different philosophies, the club needed a change.

Bennett said one student, club president Brigitte Bentulan, ignited the change.

“They had some interclub turmoil,” Bennett said. “We had a student that said, ‘No, either you’re no longer going to be a part of this club or you’re going to follow the right way to do it.’ Brigitte stood up to him. She made it a point; she stood up for the art of kendo more than anything.”

Bentulan, a sophomore studying biological sciences, has been in the club for a year and a half and has been president for a year. She said the changes were tough to make but she credits her officers within the club as well as the committed members for the improvement.

"We had to lay down the expectations and structure, which allowed the members to work hard and achieve their goals (of sparring with each other)," Bentulan said. "I would like to give a shout out to the current members who have shown improvement in skill, teamwork, and leadership."

The kendo club, which has grown to eight members, is still looking to improve. Schorsch said the club remains to look for new members and its current members are still trying to advance in their craft, something that has not happened

since 2003.

"We'd like to have (members) rank up and since our current members have been doing it longer, they'll be able to rank up quickly," Schorsch said. "Our new members will have to practice for a while before they can rank."

The table tennis club was recognized for winning Club of the Year. Table tennis set a club record when it sent three students to the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association National Championships this year.

The club baseball team was awarded with the Event of the Year for its Slugfest Tournament, which featured 18 teams from seven states. There were two Officers of the Year winners announced: senior Dave Rebot and junior Kelsea Bourland.

Rebot, the president of the paintball club, has been trying to secure the club an on-campus practice site, a feature Bennett said would improve the club's activity on campus.

Bourland, co-founder and president of the quidditch club, led her club to finish second out of five at a tournament at Illinois State University. She was also recognized for getting the quidditch club to compete competitively and increasing awareness about the sport.

Bennett said cases like Bourland's or Bentulan's are what make sports clubs great. He said being an officer of a sport club or part of the executive board adds a lot to the college experience.

“Sport clubs give students the opportunity to lead, to grow and to become ambassadors for our university,” Bennett said. “It looks great on résumés. It really is extraordinary students doing extraordinary things.”

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EXPERIENCED OFFICE HELP, rental or sales exp. preferred, 20-25 hours, avail mornings and/or afternoons/Sat. Send resume to P.O. Box 1417, Carbondale, IL 62903.

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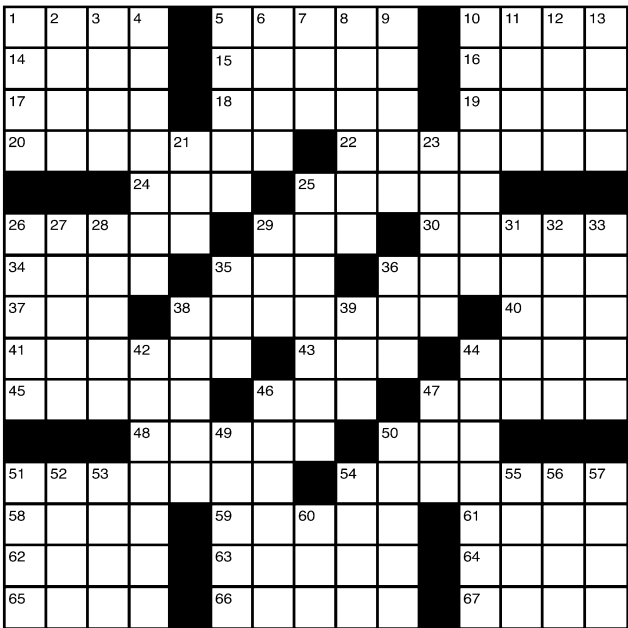
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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bread rolls
5 Rotates
10 Little Jack
Horner's prize
14 Willing to listen
and reconsider
15 Frog's noise
16 Go higher
17 Facial center
18 Awaken
19 Above
20 Went into
22 Popular cat
breed
24 Argument
25 Division of a
long poem
26 Dug for ore
29 Fraternity letter
30 Each __; one
another
34 Excessively dry
35 Soft drink
36 __-eyed; not
quite awake
37 Stir together
38 Conscientious
40 Corrupt
41 Actors' talks to
the audience
43 Mr. Koppel
44 Sensible
45 Transparent
46 Craze
47 Alma __; one's
old school
48 Danger
50 Pea casing
51 Dishonest
54 Gang member
58 Journals
59 Ms. Moorehead
61 Ms. Turner
62 Competent
63 Good buys
64 Wickedness
65 Unwanted plant
66 Fashion
67 Palm tree fruit

- DOWN**
- 1 Rib or scapula
2 Sitting __; atop
3 __ egg; money
saved up
4 __ at; showed
contempt for



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

05/05/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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05/01/14

- 5 Threaded fastener
6 Nudge
7 Debtor's note
8 Capital of the Bahamas
9 Coil of yarn
10 Move a pupil to the next grade
11 Not taped
12 Does drugs
13 Parisian mother
21 TV's __ Serling
23 Ring-shaped island
25 Paris, Rome or London
26 Cradle rockers, often
27 __ setter; reddish dog
28 Undeliverable piece of mail
29 Little child
31 Usual practice
32 Clear the slate
33 Actress Winona
35 Boil contents
36 __ Abbott
38 Actress Bo __
39 Nourished
42 Removed from office
44 Walked like a duck
46 Appear jittery
47 Cow's remark
49 Peruses
50 Sheriff's group
51 Talon
52 King's attire
53 Make eyes at
54 Satan's realm
55 Molten rock
56 College credit
57 Boy or man
60 Negative vote

Pick up the **Daily Egyptian** each day to test your crossword skills

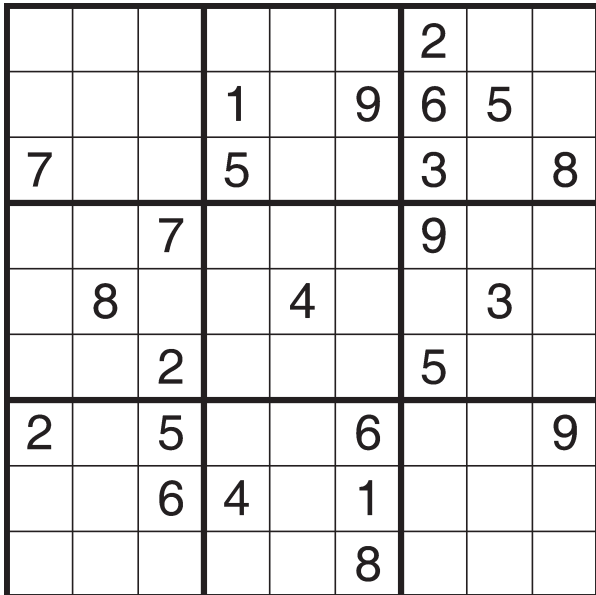
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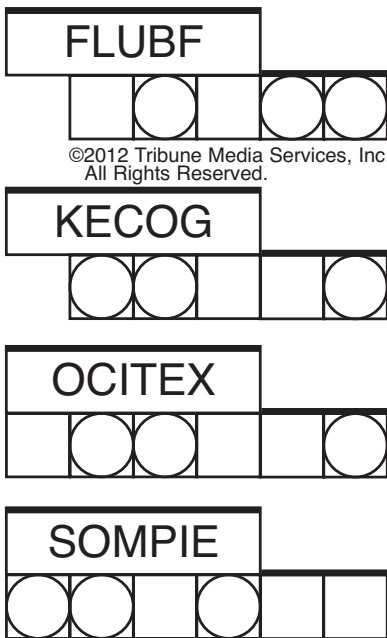
Thursday's Answers:

5	8	6	3	1	4	2	9	7
3	7	9	5	8	2	4	1	6
2	4	1	6	7	9	3	5	8
4	2	5	8	9	6	1	7	3
1	3	7	4	2	5	8	6	9
6	9	8	1	3	7	5	2	4
9	6	4	2	5	8	7	3	1
8	5	3	7	6	1	9	4	2
7	1	2	9	4	3	6	8	5

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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Answer: " " " "

Wednesday's Answers: TRACK MORPH INFUSE DIVINE
While the men were away, the women — MANNED THE FORT

Horoscopes

By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement



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Aries — Today is a 7 — Make time to play with family and friends. Your fun is contagious. Add small luxuries to your routine. Creating a work of beauty fulfills a hidden urge. Cook a gourmet meal for the senses.

Taurus — Today is a 7 — Increase the comfort level at home. Cleaning house could lead to the discovery of a treasure. Offer encouragement to someone with homework (or accept it if it's you). Talk about freedom.

Gemini — Today is an 7 — Study the angles. Plan organize and review data. Make sure an important person understands. You're exceptionally clever with words. A unique opportunity may arise.

Cancer — Today is an 6 — This is a productive time. Spend a little to keep things flowing, but keep to the budget. Take care of family. Your morale gets a boost. Ask authorities about an increase in your benefits.

Leo — Today is a 6 — Your confidence and energy overflows. Handle your chores, and then develop a hot idea. Feed off small successes. If something fails, call in reinforcements or try a new angle.

Virgo — Today is a 6 — Thoughtful planning and coordination over the next two days produces powerful results. Follow through on details. Learn new skills. Write marketing copy, promotions, or descriptions.

Libra — Today is a 6 — A new assignment will be fun. Talk it over with friends. Revise your creative plan. Follow your heart and curiosity. People have nice things to say about you. Listen to their encouragement.

Scorpio — Today is a 7 — The spotlight's on you. Friends offer good advice. Keep sarcastic comments to yourself. Diplomacy works much better now. Expect trouble with scheduling for the next two days.

Sagittarius — Today is a 6 — Study and research is favored lately. Set long-range goals and work towards your own inspiring future. Tell the truth and demand the same back. Talk about what you love.

Capricorn — Today is a 7 — Review shared financial arrangements. Confer with family. Reassure someone who needs it. Friends help you advance. Send packages and documents. Sign papers.

Aquarius — Today is a 6 — Share the load with a partner today and tomorrow. Talk is cheap. Put your back into it. Divergent ideas meld and join in. Consider the resources in your network of friends.

Pisces — Today is a 6 — There's plenty to keep you busy. Family comes first. Chores and practical work needs attention. Get farther than expected. Follow the path of least resistance. Serve others charity.

Sycamores stun Salukis with series win

TONY MCDANIEL
Daily Egyptian

SIU softball played in its final weekend series of the year: a series that had major postseason implications for both teams.

Indiana State University took the series win two games to one, spurred on by strong Sycamore pitching and lackluster performances from the Saluki hitters.

In the first game Saturday, Indiana State outplayed the Dawgs in a 4-3 victory.

Sycamore first baseman Megan Stone started the scoring in the top of the first inning with a three-run homerun. The Salukis answered back with a run of their own in the bottom of the frame to make the score 3-1.

During the bottom of the fifth inning, SIU scored twice when sophomore shortstop Kelsey Gonzalez doubled to score two Salukis and tied the game at three apiece.

Coach Kerri Blaylock moved freshman Merri Anne Patterson to left field in the sixth and inserted junior Meredith Wilson in right field. Patterson and Wilson each had errors in the inning, which allowed Indiana State to score the winning run, leaving the score 4-3.

The Salukis' bats came to life to lead them to a 6-2 win in game two.

Senior pitcher Taylor Orsburn led the team on offense and in the circle in the series' second game.



CHRIS ZOELLER • DAILY EGYPTIAN

Freshman pitcher Shaye Harre gets tagged out at home plate Saturday during game one of a doubleheader against Indiana State University at Charlotte West Stadium. The Salukis split the doubleheader, which ensured the team a first-round bye in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament Thursday through Saturday at Illinois State University.

Orsburn started for the Salukis and continued to be dominant in her new role as starting pitcher. She pitched all seven innings allowing two runs on seven hits to lower her conference leading ERA to 2.27.

Orsburn also scored SIU's first three runs of the game with a three-run homerun in the bottom of the second inning.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Jayna Spivey hit a two-run homerun to give SIU a 5-2 lead.

The Salukis won the game 6-2 to give SIU a win on senior day, and a first round bye in next weekend's Missouri

Valley Conference tournament.

The Salukis only managed two hits in a 3-0 loss in Sunday's game.

Indiana State's series win over the Dawgs was the first one since 1986. The Sycamores' record of 27-26 is the team's first winning record in 22 years.

SIU will travel to Bloomington to play as the three seed in the MVC tournament starting Thursday.

Tony McDaniel can be reached at tmcdaniel@dailyegyptian.com, on Twitter @tonymcdanielDE or 536-3311 ext. 282

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Dawgs drop another conference series



AARON GRAFF
Daily Egyptian

The Saluki baseball team has lost all of its six conference series this season, and has eight one-run losses.

The Salukis (22-26, 4-14) hosted the Missouri Valley Conference-leading University of Evansville (30-16, 11-4) for their final home conference series of the season. The Purple Aces won the series two games to one.

On Friday, junior pitcher Sam Coonrod made his 12th start, and had his toughest matchup of the season.

Evansville's junior pitcher Kyle Freeland leads the MVC in wins, strikeouts and has the third-best ERA. He is projected to be a first-round draft pick this year and SIU head coach Ken Henderson said he is one of the best pitchers in the nation.

"He's a very good pitcher," Coonrod said after Friday's game. "I was going to have to be good. To give us a chance to win, I was either going to have to allow no or one runs."

Coonrod recorded five strikeouts in 6.1 innings and departed with a 1-0 lead and two runners left on base. Freshman pitcher Kyle Pauly came in and allowed the Purple Aces to tie the game 1-1, which gave Coonrod his sixth no-decision of the year.

"I never want to come out, ever," Coonrod said. "I think it was the right move, but I never want to come out."

Evansville took a 2-1 lead in the eighth. SIU was down to its last out in the ninth, but senior Jake Welch hit an RBI single to send the game to extra innings.

JENNIFER GONZALEZ • DAILY EGYPTIAN
Senior catcher Matt Jones runs to first base Friday during SIU's 4-2 loss against the University of Evansville. Jones hit three doubles in the weekend series and has hits in nine of the last 10 games. The Salukis open a weekend series against Mississippi Valley State University Friday at Itchy Jones Stadium.

Please visit www.dailyegyptian.com
for the rest of the story.

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